

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5782

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK MILITARY COMMANDERS MEET ON COUNTER-MEASURES
AGAINST JAPAN-BASED COMMUNISTS

1. ON MORNING OF AUGUST 30, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SUH CHONG-CHOL CALLED IN ROK CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND COMMANDERS OF ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE FOR 70 MINUTE CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, SUH CALLED MEETING TO DISCUSS COUNTER-MEASURES AGAINST NORTH KOREA'S CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO BUILD "STRONGHOLDS" IN JAPAN FOR SUBVERSION AGAINST SOUTH.

2. CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY THAT UNLESS JAPAN ACTS TO PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH STRONGHOLDS, SOUTH KOREA WILL FACE GRAVE SITUATION HAMPERING NATIONAL SECURITY. PARTICIPANTS "DEPLORED" JAPAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE JAPANESE-BASED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES BY NORTH. PARTICIPANTS ALSO NOTED THAT NORTH KOREA HAD USED ONE OF ITS OWN FREIGHTERS, RUNNING BETWEEN NORTH AND JAPAN, TO PREPARE ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST PRESIDENT PARK ON AUGUST 15.

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3. AFTER MEETING, NEWSPAPERS REPORT "RANKING OFFICIALS" OF MINISTRY MET COLONEL KIMIRO HISAMATSU, FIRST SECRETARY AND MILITARY ATTACHE OF JAPANESE EMBASSY, FOR TWO HOUR TALK AT HIS OFFICE. SOURCES DECLINED TO REVEAL SUBJECT.

4. COMMENT: HIGH LEVEL ROK GENERAL TOLD U.S. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER ON SEPTEMBER 2 THAT MEETING OF KOREAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP ON AUGUST 30 WAS "TO DEMONSTRATE TO JAPANESE OUR CONCERN IN THE MILITARY" OVER USE OF JAPANESE SOIL AS BASE FOR COMMUNISTS TO CONDUCT ANTI-ROKG OPERATIONS. HE SAID MEETING WOULD RESULT IN NO OVERT ACTIONS, NOTING THAT MEETING, IN FACT, WAS SET TO RESTUDY AND TIGHTEN UP SECURITY SITUATION IN ROK ITSELF. IT APPEARS THAT MEETING, IN ACCORD WITH PAST PATTERNS, WAS PART OF OVERALL ORCHESTRATION BY ROKG FOR ITS POLITICAL PURPOSES I.E. IMPRESSING ON GOJ SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION.
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